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THE
Important Letter

Relating to the

Publ. Pamph. Vol. 92
AFFAIRS

OF

Great-Britain:

WITH

Proper Remarks on Them;

And on the

Lord Bolingbroke's LETTER therein
contained.

From a Gentleman in Town to a Friend in
North-Britain.

----- *longa est Injuria longa*
Ambages, sed summa sequar fastigia rerum.

L O N D O N,

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T H E

Important Letter, &c.

S I R,

IN Compliance with your Request, I shall do myself the Honour to send you once a Week, a Faithful, and as General an Account as I can, of those Occurrences and Transactions, both Foreign and Domestick, which I shall judge most material to be taken Notice of ; with my own Sentiments relating to them, as far as may be consistent with the Liberty of an *Englishman*, the Duty of a Subject, and the Decency of a Private Gentleman.

As the present Posture of Affairs require the utmost Prudence, Spirit and Application, ev'ry One who is sensible how much He, with his Country, is

interested in the Issue of them, is eager to know what Steps are taken, and Advances made, both by Friends and Enemies ; and as I am very sure, no One is more anxious and solicitous for the Wealth, the Safety, and the Reputation of his Country than yourself ; I shall be very careful to transmit to you, the Best and most Authentick Accounts. As to the *Reflections* I shall presume to make in them, I assure you, they shall never be byass'd by Partiality ; but shall be such, as only proceed from an unutterable Zeal and Affection for the Honour of my Sovereign, and the real Interest of my Country.

It has, You are too well appris'd, for some time, been represented as wicked and unjust to affirm, That the Honour of this Nation, by the late Peace, has been prostituted, its Trade given up in the most valuable Branches, and the whole of our Constitution in Danger of being broke in upon, and entirely subverted ; They have been treated with the utmost Rage, Indignation and Affronts, who presum'd to say any of the Measures taken by the late Ministry, were injurious to the
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Honour of Her Late Majesty, pernicious to this Nation, and against the Interest of the *Protestant* Succession in the present Royal Family ; They have been represented as the worst of Men, who dar'd to express their Concern to see his Most Christian Majesty prevaricate, and banter us in the Execution of his most solemn Treaties, who dar'd to tell their Apprehensions of Danger, from the Residence of the *Pretender* in the Dominions of the Duke of *Lorain* ; but I hope the Matter is now out of all question, and we may be allow'd to say so, without being branded with the Names of Villains, Republicans, and the Stirers up of Sedition, since it's evident we have affirm'd nothing, but what exactly corresponds with the Sentiments of our *Most Gracious Sovereign*, the *Lords Spiritual and Temporal*, and *Commons of Great Britain*, in Parliament assembled.

His Majesty from the Throne tells us with Concern, That * *Some Conditions of the Peace essential to the Security*
and

* See His Majesty's Speech, Mar. 21. 1714.

and Trade of Great Britain are not yet duly executed; That the Performance of the whole may be look'd upon as precarious, until Defensive Alliances are form'd to Guaranty the present Treaties.

Our Sovereign complains, That the Pretender still resides in Lorain; That he threatens to disturb us, and boasts that he expects Assistance from hence to repair his former Disappointments.

We have His Royal Word for it, that Our Trade is render'd impracticable, and that this, if not retriev'd, must destroy our Manufactures, and ruin our Navigation.

The Majesty of Great Britain assures us, The Publick Debts are very great, and surprizingly encreas'd, ev'n since the Fatal Cessation of Arms.

*The Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, are inexpressibly
* affected with His Just and Tender Concern, for our not having obtain'd those Advantages by the Peace, which wou'd have been but a suitable Conclusion to so Glorious and Successful a War; That any Conditions,*

** See The Lords Address, Mar. 22. 1714.*

tions, ev'n of this Peace, essential to the Security and Trade of this Kingdom, are not as yet duly executed.

They are fill'd with a *Just Resentment* to see a Pretender to His Majesty's Crown permitted to reside so near His Dominions; especially since he has boasted of Assistance from hence, and publickly avow'd a Design to invade our Sovereign's Kingdom.

They are but too sensible, that Our Trade is render'd impracticable in the most valuable Branches of it; They are but too sensible of the Ill Effects this must have upon our Manufacturies and Navigation, and therefore, in the most solemn Manner, assure His Majesty, that Nothing shall be wanting on their Parts, which may any way conduce to the Retrieving of it.

The Commons of Great Britain, do not only highly *resent the wicked Insinuations, that have been us'd to disquiet the Minds of His Majesty's Subjects, but like faithful Representatives, are resolv'd to the utmost of their Power to suppress and extinguish that evil Disposition that is still
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* See The Commons Addresses, March 24. 1714.

at work, to deprive His Majesty of the Affections of His People.

The present Guardians of our State, are sensibly touch'd with the Reproach brought upon the Nation, by the unsuitable Conclusion of a War, which was carry'd on at so vast an Expence, and was attended with such Unparallell'd Successes: But as this Dishonour cannot, in Justice, be imputed to the whole Nation, so they firmly hope and believe, that thro' His Majesty's Great Wisdom, and their Faithful Endeavours, the Reputation of these Kingdoms will in due time, be vindicated and restor'd.

They are under Astonishment to find, that Any Conditions of the late Peace, essential to the Security and Trade of Great Britain should not be duly executed; and that Care was not taken to form such Alliances, as might have render'd that Peace not precarious.

It is with Just. Resentment, they observe the Pretender still residing in Lorain; and that he has the Presumption by Declarations from thence to stir up His Majesty's Subjects to Rebellion; but that which raises their utmost Indignation is, that it appears by those Declarations, that the Pretender's Hopes were built upon the Measures that
have

have been taken for some time past in Great Britain. These Measures our Noble Asserters of British Liberty and Freedom, have promised to trace out, and to bring the Authors of them to Condign Punishment.

You see, now, Sir, at one View, what the Sentiments of King, Lords, and Commons are, with Relation to the Peace, and the late Administration of Affairs ; Who they are that have plunder'd and betray'd us, and on whom the *Pretender* depended for Assistance ; you may now see what real Danger our Church and State was in ; all I hope will now be convinc'd, that our Fears of the *Pretender* were not imaginary ; that our late Men in Power were not the honest, disinterested Persons, which Hirelings and Dependants have represented them ; It is now too evident, that our *Peace* is not that *Safe*, that *Honourable*, and that *Advantageous* One, which we have been told it was ; It now sadly appears, that it has almost ruin'd our Reputation in Foreign Parts ; that it greatly endanger'd our Trade, our Religion, and our Liberty ; not only brought black, and terrible Clouds

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over

these Kingdoms, over the Republick of the *States General*, but also over the whole Body of *Protestants* throughout *Europe*.

I am sure, Sir, you tremble at the very Thoughts of those Miseries and Calamities, which your poor Country and Posterity were without Mercy devoted to. I will not take upon me, to say, what the Nation will do with those Men, who covenanted to sell the Honour of their Sovereign, the Peace and the Liberty of all *Europe*; but this I know, if we take Cases something resembling ours (for Parallels I am sure we cannot) either from Ancient or Modern History, the worst of Deaths will be thought too mild a Punishment, for such superlatively wicked Traitors.

Cou'd not the Sacred Temple of *Minerva* protect the perfidious *Pausanias*, from the Justice of his injur'd Country? and shall the impudent Clamour of a *French* Faction, cause an *Englishman* so much as to hesitate, whether he shall proceed in Demanding Justice on the Betrayers of his? Cou'd the Aged Mother of *Pausanias*, when convinc'd of his Treachery, be the first in drawing
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down just Vengeance on his Guilty Head? and is there any among us, who pretend a Regard for the Prosperity and Safety of their Country, who do not wish to see the Notorious Enemies of it, brought out, and cut off for ever from amongst them? Was *Mortimer's* ignominious Death, who concluded a dishonourable, and pernicious Peace with *Scotland*, and for which his Body hung on the Gallows at *Tyburn* two Days and two Nights, thought no sufficient Compensation for his Treachery and Treason, and yet is there any amongst us, who dare affirm, It is but reasonable, that our Traitors shou'd escape with Impunity?

All that were confederated with us in our just War against *France*; all that have sufferd (as which have not) by our shameful Desertion of them, expect that Justice be done on the Authors of their Calamities,

It is amazing to reflect, how we have been cheated into Ruin, and deluded into an Approbation of inevitable Misery. There was not a Step taken, during the late Administration, but what an unprejudiced Person cou'd

easily see, was directly levell'd against the Honour, and the Liberty of these Kingdoms. None but what cou'd easily discover, how unfruitable the Articles of *Utrecht* were, to the surprizing Successes of the War; None but what cou'd easily discover the Deceit of *France*, in the Execution, *even of those Articles*; None but what were surpriz'd, and griev'd at the shameful Easiness of our Ministry, in suffering the Nation to be banter'd, and insulted as its vanquish'd Enemy pleased; None but what could easily discover their Affection for the *Pretender*, in permitting him quietly to reside so near Her Majesty's Dominions.

But there needs no more to be said on this Head, since we have the Promise of the faithful Commons of *Great Britain*, that the Measures which for some time past have been taken, to accomplish our Destruction, shall be traced out, and the Authors of them brought to *Condign Punishment*.

This the guilty Wretches already are so sensible of, that they endeavour tho' in the poorest Manner, to hide themselves from the just Vengeance
which

which they perceive is ready to break forth against them; the haughty, insolent *Bolinbroke* is now forc'd to betake himself to a Disguise, and in the most private Manner to sneak out of a Land, which he had assur'd himself as well as others, shou'd at last by his Treachery, become a Province of *France*. The Account we have of his Escape is thus, that on *Sunday Morning, March* the 27th. 1715. the Lord *Bolinbroke* arriv'd early in the Morning at *Dover* disguis'd, and attended only by a *French Courier*; that about Noon he embark'd thence, and in the Evening arriv'd at *Calais*, from whence he proceeded directly to the Governour's House. This, I think, is an undeniable Demonstration of his Guilt, and of the good Understanding, there has all along been between him and the Court of *France*. It will not, I hope, any longer be esteem'd a Crime to term him a *French Traitor*, since if he had not been engag'd with that Court, in Designs against his Country, he could not have hoped to have found Protection from *France*, when he durst not any longer remain in *England*. If he ^{had} not been guilty of those Crimes, which

which are laid to his Charge, why fled he? why to *France*? if he had not been as much a Friend to them, as he has been an Enemy to his Country. What a faithful Secretary of State have we then had! What a disinterested Statesman has sat at our Council Board! What an *Honourable* and *Advantageous* Peace maker, has the Lord Viscount *Bolinbroke* been! No Wonder our Trade is lost, the Nation surprizingly involv'd in Debt; no Wonder our Allies were deserted and slaughter'd, and our Enemy is again grown Rich and Powerful; no Wonder we were in Danger of a *Popish*, and an Arbitrary Government, since the Management and Direction of our Treasure, Councils, Fleets, and Armies, were in the Hands of that vile Politician, and others of the like Stamp.

He has, indeed, had the Insolence to cause the following Letter to be publish'd, on Purpose still further to impose on weak Minds, and to stir up in them Jealousies and Disquietudes, with Relation to the present just Proceedings; on the Issue of which very much, (if not wholly depends) the
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Honour, Safety, and Tranquility of these Kingdoms ; but I doubt not, but when you have read it, and what I have cursorily added by way of Remark, you will be convinc'd, he is one of the most impudent, as well as wicked Statesmen, that ever sat a Council Board. His Letter is^{as} follows,

My Lord,

I Left the Town so abruptly, that I had no Time to take Leave of you, or any of my Friends. You will excuse me, when you know that I had certain, and repeated Informations from Some, who are in the Secret of Affairs, that a Resolution was taken by those who have Power to execute it, to persue me to the Scaffold.

My Blood was to be the Cement of a New Alliance, nor could my Innocence be any Security, after it had once been demanded from Abroad, and resolv'd on at Home, that it was necessary to cut me off. Had there been the least Reason to hope for a fair and open Tryal, after having been already prejudg'd, unheard by the Two Houses of Parliament, I should not have declin'd the strictest Examination.

I challenge the most Inveterate of my Enemies, to produce any one Instance of Criminal Correspondence, or of the least Corruption in any Part of the Administration in which I was concern'd. If my Zeal for the Honour and Dignity of my Royal Mistress, and the true Interest of my Country, has any where transported me to let slip a warm or unguarded Expression, I hope the most favourable Interpretation will be put upon it.

It is a Comfort, that will remain with me in all my Misfortunes, that I serv'd Her MAJESTY dutifully and faithfully, in That especially which She had most at Heart, relieving Her People from a Bloody and Expensive War: And that I have always been too much an Englishman, to sacrifice the Interest of my Country to any Foreign Ally whatsoever; and 'tis for this Crime only, that I am now driven from thence

You will hear from me more at Large, in a short Time.

Yours, &c.

Bolinbroke.

You

You see, Sir, this Letter is plainly calculated to draw an *Odium* on the present Administration, and the faithful Representatives of the whole Kingdom.

Wou'd any, but the most profligate of Mankind, have dar'd to have affirm'd, that there was not the *least Reason to hope for a Fair and Open Tryal*, when Persons only of known *Honour, Religion and Truth*, were to have been his Judges? Nay, shall the whole Legislature be censur'd as cruel and unjust, because a Criminal has had the Insolence to say so? If his Blood was demanded from Abroad, can it be imagin'd, it was because he had done nothing worthy of Death? Would any of the Allies have expected his Lite, if he had not been Instrumental in Ruining them? Or, will any One say, it was just his Lordship should desert, and give them up to Slavery and Death; and yet that it shews Cruelty in them, to expect some Account to be given for such barbarous Ulage? If he can challenge the most inveterate of his Enemies, to produce any one Instance of a Criminal Correspondence, or of Corruption

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You

ruption in any Part of the Administration in which he was concerned; why made he his Escape? It is Nonsense, as well as to the last Degree impudently false, to say, he could not hope for a Fair and Open Tryal; the Honour and Dignity of a House of LORDS, is not to be blasted by such an Assertion. If there was nothing Criminal could be prov'd against him, all the Inveteracy of his Enemies would have turn'd upon their own Heads; all their Proceedings would have added a Lustre to his Innocence, and have justly render'd him the Darling of his Country. I believe, there are few innocent Men would fear to stand a malicious Tryal, ev'n at the Old Bailey; and where is the upright Man, that would run from a Tryal before the most Honourable, and Illustrious Assembly in the Universe?

His Lordship pretends to have serv'd Her Majesty, in that especially which She has most at Heart, delivering Her People from a Bloody and Expensive War. But if we may believe the Queen Herself, the End which was put to it, did in the most infamous Manner prostitute Her

Her Honour, and was directly contrary to Her Sentiments, and Her most solemn repeated Declarations : For from the Throne She declar'd it to be Her Royal Opinion, * ' That if the ' *French* King continu'd Master of the ' *Spanish* Monarchy, the Balance of ' Power in *Europe* would be utterly ' destroy'd, and he able, in a short ' Time, to engross the Trade and ' Wealth of the World." From the Throne She declar'd, ' They were no ' good *Englishmen*, that could at any ' Time be content to acquiesce, and ' sit still in such a Prospect." She declar'd to both *Lords* and *Commons*, † That She was fully of their Opinion, ' that no Peace could be Honourable ' or Safe for us, 'till the Entire Monarchy of *Spain* was restor'd to the ' House of *Austria*.

She assur'd the *Commons* in Answer to their Address in *Feb.* 1707. ' That ' Restoring the *Spanish* Monarchy to ' the House of *Austria* was the Principal

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* See The Queen's Speech, *Octob.* 27. 1705.

† See Answer to Lords & Commons Addresses, *Dec.* 23. 1707.

‘ cipal Inducement to the present War ;
 ‘ and that She was sensible in the Suc-
 ‘ cess thereof, not only the Trade and
 ‘ Tranquility, but the Security of *Great*
 ‘ *Britain* did in a great Measure de-
 ‘ pend.

The Queen in Her Message to the House of Lords, *Jan.* 27. 1711. told them, ‘ Her Plenipotentiaries had In-
 ‘ structions to concert the most proper
 ‘ Ways of Procuring a Just Satisfaction
 ‘ to all in Alliance with Her, according
 ‘ to their several Treaties, and parti-
 ‘ cularly with Relation to *Spain*, and
 ‘ the *West Indies*.

Her Majesty in Answer to their Address, *Dec.* 8. 1711. said, ‘ She should
 ‘ be sorry any One could think, She
 ‘ would not do Her utmost to reco-
 ‘ ver *Spain* and the *West Indies* from
 ‘ the House of *Bourbon*. ” Can now
 my Lord *Bolynbroke* with any manner
 of Colour, pretend a Zeal for Her Ho-
 nour, a Love for his Country, when
 he has been Instrumental in Conclu-
 ding a Separate Peace, without giving
 that Satisfaction to the Allies, which
 was due to them by Treaties ; a Peace
 directly contrary to Her Royal Senti-
 ments,

ments, and all the Parliaments of Her
Reign; a Peace, in their Opinions, nei-
ther *Safe*, nor *Honourable* for Her, nor
Her Allies; a Peace, that has given a-
way the Balance of Power in *Europe*,
and endanger'd the Trade and Wealth
of the World.

His Lordship pretends to *have been*
too much an Englishman, to sacrifice the
Interest of his Country to any Foreign
Ally whatsoever. But if (as most cer-
tainly it is) giving up *Spain* and the
West Indies to the House of *Bourbon*
be dishonourable, disadvantageous, and
unsafe for *Great Britain*, sure I am,
my Lord *Bolinbroke* has not only been
Instrumental in sacrificing his Coun-
try, but all *Europe* to the Exorbitant
Power of *France*? If Rejecting Guar-
antees for the Protestant Succession
in the present Illustrious FAMILY,
weaken'd, and endanger'd the Best,
and Strongest Security (under Hea-
ven) we had for our Religion and
Liberty, then his Lordship was In-
strumental in rendring that inestima-
ble Blessing hazardous and uncertain.
In a word, If Concluding a Peace di-
rectly contrary to the frequent decla-
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red Sentiments of Her Majesty, of all the Parliaments of Her Reign, and of Her most Religions Engagements, were to consult the Honour and Dignity of Her, and his Country; if these were to serve that and His Royal Mistress Dutifully and Faithfully; then my Lord *Bolinfroke* was a good *Englishman* and a just Servant; if not, he was a deceitful Counsellor to *Her*, and a perfidious Traitor to his *Country*.

To conclude, The ill Consequences of his Transactions, and those Confederated with him, appear ev'ry Day greater and greater, and their Guilt plainer and plainer; the common People seem now resolv'd no longer to be abus'd and impos'd on; the *Genius* of the *British* Nation seems now to awake, and resolv'd to exert itself, and persue with just Vengeance, the Authors of those bold and desperate Councils which were enter'd into, and prosecuted, in Order to compleat our Destruction, and chain down us and our Posterity for ever, to the abject Condition of those, who can neither say their Lives, nor Fortunes are their own.

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